

which they are vnto, which occasions haue procured you the discontentment and the enuie of all France, it may suffice that they reserve to themselves, the pray of the *Marshall de Ancre*, & their other offices, which belong not to the Crowne, for to be thereby ingaged in your good will, and then will cease the plaints of Subiects, you may rule your fauours according to the merit, seruices, and condicions of the persons, and not according to your owne inclination, the Sun which is the eye of the World, as you be of France, communiceth his beames to all things on the Earth, but the Cedar receiues them sooner then the Ilop, and the hearbe which is dedicated to the Sunne, hath not his stem more lifted vp then that of the Baytree, nor the flowers which follow his motion, haue no better odour, nor more beauty, then the Roses, Violets, or Lilies, such is the order of the Vniuerse; such ought to be this of France, the good of which hath caused me to vndertake this discourse, in which I protest that my Penne hath beene dipped in no wise, for any peticular hatred, and that I haue broken silence only to warne and admonish your Maiestie, as the son of Cresus, for to saue his Father, for which I aske not any recompence, the onely reward of good actions consisting in the satisfaction, that he is to doe by his duty.



FINIS.

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FINIS.

LETTERS
PATENTS

Roane
June 13

MADE BY THE
FRENCH KING, DECLARING
his intent touching those of the
Reformed Religion.

Published in Roane in the Court of Parliament
the seventh day of June, An. 1621.

*With two Letters of the Assembly at Rochell
unto the Duke de Lesdiguieres.*



PRINTED MDCXXI.

THE
LAW
OF
THE
STATE

OF
THE
STATE
OF
NEW
YORK

IN SENATE
JANUARY 1851



AND
IN ASSEMBLY
JANUARY 1851

PRINTED
AND
SOLD
BY
J. B. LIPPINCOTT
AND
CO.
NEW YORK

Letters Pattents made by the French King,
declaring his intent touching those of
the reformed Religion.

*Published in Roane in the Court of Parliament
the 7 day of June, An. 1621.*

THe Kings Letters Patents dated in Niort the 27
day of May last past, touching the protection of
his subjects professing the reformed Religion, that
shall continue in obedience and subiection vnto
his Edicts, and obseruing those points that are therein
contained, against the inhabitants and others, of what
state and condition soeuer they be, dwelling, retiring, or
withdrawne for refuge in the townes of Rochell and
S. Iohn d' Angely, and all others that fauour them, directly
or indirectly, as the said Letters Pattents more at large de-
clare, being iudicially read, published and heard, by the
Kings Attourney generall in his conclusions. The said
Court hath ordaind, and ordaineth, that vpon the backe
side of the said Letters pattents shal be set, read, published,
registred and heard, at the request of the Kings Attourney
Generall, and order taken that the copies of the same in
print shall be sent not onely to the generall Courts, but
also to every particular Bailiwicks and Vice-counties of
resort, there also to be read, published and registred in e-
very place of iurisdiction, and kept and obserued according
to the forme and tenour thereof, enioyning all Iudges
and substitutes of the said Attourney Generall, every one
in particular to put their helping hands for and vnto the
obseruation, and punishment of the contradictors thereof,
vpon paine to answer the same personally; and to aduertise
the said Court what diligence they haue vsed therein, as
well touching the publication, as the execution of the
said Letters pattents within the space of a moneth next
ensuing, according to the order therein taken by this Court
this present day. The contents of the said Letters pattents
being as followeth.

LOVIS by the grace of God King of France and Navarre, To all men whom these presents shall come to be seene or read, greeting. The desire that we haue alwaies had to preserve publicke peace and tranquillitie among our subiects, and to impeach those evils and desolations which leuying of armes ordinarily bringeth with it, as also those oppressions and calamities that our people thereby receiue, hath moued vs diuers moneths together patiently to tollerate and suffer the excesses, disobediences and rebellions that haue bin committed in diuers Townes of our Realme by some of our subiects making profession of the reformed Religion, specially in Rochell, Montaban and others, wherein there hath bin, and as yet are holden vnlawfull assemblies, which are rather employed to forme and erect popular estates & commonwealths, then to containe themselves within the limits of that obedience vnto vs whereunto they are naturally bound: hauing caused a Seale to be grauen, and vnder the same, and the hands of the principall persons of the said assemblies, they haue made diuers ordinances, decrees, messages, and commissions, containing power vnto particular assemblies, to command in prouinces and townes, to leuie the moneys of our farmes and receits, to leuie men, armes and mony, to melt and cast cannons, to send messages to forreine realmes and prouinces, and other such like actions, which sufficiently make an apparence of a greater rebellion and open rising against our authoritie; whereof being informed and truly certified in the moneth of April last; and knowing that they embolden themselves to enter into these disorders because of the little suretie that they say they haue of their persons and libertie of their consciences, by our declaration made and bearing date the 24. of the said moneth of April, desiring to giue them all assurances of our good inclinations towards those that shall continue in their duties, and receiuing them into our particular protection and sauegard: we declared and made knowne, that the voyage which we pretended to make
into

into those quarters, was (by our approaching to those places where the said insolencies are committed) there to establish and make our authoritie to appeare; to the confusion of those that shall be found culpable, rather then to vse any other greater rigour; nor yet to shew that power which God hath giuen vnto vs for the punishment of such insolencies: but they are so farre from looking into their owne imperfections, and reducing themselues vnto that whereunto they are obliged, that the greatest part of them continuing in their bad pretences, openly run into rebellion, and commit all sorts of hostilitie against those that will not ioyne with them: openly publishing that they acknowledge no other head then the assembly that is in Rochell, which hath caused diuers souldiers leuied by the said commissions to gather together in Saint Iohn de Angely, that make shew to withstand our entrance therein by force of arms, which enforceth vs (perceiuing also that the same disorder hath followed in diuers other Townies of our Realme) to make preparation to punish the offenders according to their merits and deserts, and to that effect together with the ordinarie course of iustice, to vse the meanes that God hath giuen vs for the maintenance of our authoritie: And to the end that all our subiects, and specially those that make profession of the reformed Religion may not be abused by false pretences, wherewith the said assembly serue themselues, to diuert and turne them from their duties, and that both the one and the other may be informed of our intents and wils touching the same. We by the aduice of the Princes, Dukes, Peeres, Officers of our Crowne, and the principall persons of our Councell, haue made knowne and declared, make known and declare by these presents, that concerning our said Letters patentes bearing date the 24 of Aprill last, we haue taken and receiued, and take and receiue into our protection and speciall sauegard all our subiects of the said reformed Religion, of what qualitie or condition soeuer they be, that shall continue and remaine in our obedience

and vnder the obseruation of our Edicts, which we will also cause to be diligently and carefully obserued in fauor of them: but perceiuing the manifest rebellions that are committed in our Towne of Rochell, not onely by the assembly which is alwayes continued contrary to our expresse prohibitions, but also by the whole body of the said Towne, Burgesses and inhabitants thereof, as also that which is done in our Towne of Saint Iohn d'Angely, and the acts of hostilitie which they dayly commit against our person. Wee haue declared, and by these presents declare, all the inhabitants and other persons, of what estate and qualities soeuer they be, which at this present dwell, are retired and refuged within the townes of Rochell and Saint Iohn d'Angely, and all others that fauour them directly or indirectly, or that shall haue accesse vnto, intelligence, association and correspondence with them, or that shall allow in any sort whatsoever of the said assembly in Rochell, or the other assemblies, circuites, counsels of prouinces, or other congregations that haue correspondence with that of Rochell, and that are holden without our expresse permission; relapsed and fallen into disobedience, and guiltie of high treason, and as such their lands and goods to be forfeit and confiscated vnto vs: willing that processe should be made against them, according to the rigour of our lawes and ordinances, by the seisures of their persons, inuentories of their goods and other wayes ordinary and accustomed, vsed in such cases. Declaring also our said Townes of Saint Iohn d'Angely and Rochell, and all others their adherents, and which with them shall take part in the said crimes and disobediences, to be deprived of, and to haue forfeited all their rights, priuiledges, franchises, and other benefits that haue bin giuen and granted vnto them by the Kings our predecessors, and by vs. And to the end that wee may discern and know the good from the bad, we will that all our subiects making profession of the said reformed Religion, as well Gentlemen and officers, as others of what qualitie or condition soeuer

foeuer they be, and also the townes and commonalties of the said qualitie, shall make declaration, in the Presidents Courts, Bailiwicks, and Stuardships of their resorts, of their good intents touching our seruice; and that in the same they shall renounce and disauow, as also protest, not to adhere in any maner to the said assembly of Rochell, nor to any other assemblies, counsels, of prouinces, circuites, resorts, and others, which (as it is said) haue bin and are holden without our expresse permission; and that with vs they will oppose themselues against all the resolutions that therein may haue bin taken, whereof they shall haue testimonies from the said Courts, &c. necessary and fit for their discharges. As also we expressly prohibite all Gentlemen and others, not to permit their children, seruants, nor others depending on them, to go into the said townes, nor to lend them any comfort or assistance whatsoever, nor yet to lodge or receiue into their houses those that shall go thither or conuerse with them in any manner whatsoever, vpon paine to be holden culpable of the same crime. Most expressly willing and charging all Bailies, Stuards, Prouost Marshals, Iudges, and their Lieutenants, Deputie Stuards, Prouost Marshals of our cousins the Constable, and Marshals of France, and all other our Officers to whom it may appertaine, exactly and carefully to proceed against the persons and goods of those that shall haue incurred the said crime; and to our Attourneys Generall and their substitutes, vpon the said processees to make diligent and requisite enquiries, such as are to be done by them, without respect of any safegard or other assurances, that they may obtaine from vs, by false suggestions or otherwise, if the said saueguards be not made by Letters Patents sealed with our great Seale; and that in the same it be expressly set downe that we haue giuen them licence to go into, or frequent the said rebellious townes. We also will and require our louing and faithfull Counsellours that sit in our Courts of Parliament, and chambers of Edicts, to cause these our present Letters pattents to be read, published, and

and registred in every place, and the contents thereof to be exactly kept and obserued according to the forme and tenour thereof: enioyning our Attourneys Generall and their substitutes to be carefull thereof, and to make all processe and pursutes necessary and requisite touching the same, for such is our will and pleasure. In witnesse whereof, we haue caused our Seale to be set hercunto. Given at Niort the 27 day of May, Anno 1621. and of our raigne the twelfth.

Signed, *LOVIS.*

And on the backe side, *Par le Roy.*

Potier.

And sealed with the great Seale in yellow waxe. And further, on the back side is written,
Read, published, registred, and heard at the instance and request of the Kings Attourney Generall, to be executed, kept and obserued according to the forme and tenour. By force of the decree contained in the register of this day. At Roane in the Court of Parliament the 7. day of Iune, 1621.

Signed, *De Boislevésque.*

EXTRACTED OUT OF THE REGISTER *of the Court of Parliament.*

THe Court of the Chambers being assembled, having seene the Kings Letters patents dated in Niort the 27 of May last, as well for the protection and safeguard of all his subiects of the reformed Religion, that shall continue in, and containe themselves vnder his obedience, and the obseruation of his Edicts, making profession thereof as his said Letters patents specifye and declare, against the inhabitants and other persons of what estate and qualitie soeuer they be, that dwell, continue, retire, and are refused in the Townes of Rochell and Saint Iohn d'Angely, and all others that fauour them directly or indirectly, and the conclusions of the Kings Attourney Generall being
con-

considered. The said Court, the Chambers being assembled, hath and doth ordaine that the said Letters patents shall be read, published and registred, that the contents thereof may be executed, kept and observed according to their forme and tenour, without any attribution nevertheless, of any jurisdiction and knowledge in that respect to the Prouosts General, their Lieutenants or Vicebailies; vnlesse it be onely for the execution of the said decrees & reasons, the prisoners being caried and committed to the ordinary prisons of the said places, and their processe made, and iudged by the said ordinary Regall Iudges, and by appeal in the said Court, and vpon expresse charge, that the declarations mentioned by the said Letters patents shall by them of the said reformed Religion be made, as well by the maisters of households, their children, seruises and seruants, aboue 16. yeares of age, as also by widowes and women, that is such as reside and dwell in the townes and suburbes of the same within eight dayes after the publication of the said Letters patents; and those that dwell in the countrey, or are absent from the said townes, within fifteene dayes after the said publication, vpon the paines and penalties contained in the said Letters patents; which declarations shall be made before the Bailies or their Deputies in the open Court, according to the forme thereof printed, and which shall be sent by the said Court, to be deliuered freely without any fees paying to those that shall make the same declaration, as well by the Iudges and Clarkes vpon paine of punishment. Dated in Roame in the said Court of Barliament, the Chambers being assembled, the seuenth of Iune, 1621.

Signed, *De Bois leuesque.*

THis day the day of 1621.
hath appeared before vs,
appearing, dwelling in the Parish
of aged yeares, or there-
abouts, making profession of the reformed Religion, who
B to

to fulfill the Kings Letters patents made at Niort the se-
 uen and twentieth day of May last past, hath declared,
 sworne and promised to continue, liue and die in the fi-
 delitie and obedience which hee oweth vnto the King;
 To renounce, disauouch and protest, not to adhere in any
 manner vnto the assembly of Rochell, neither vnto any
 other assemblies, counsels of Prouinces, resorts, circuites
 and others, that are holden, hold, and shall be holden
 without the expresse commission of the King, but rather
 with his Maiestie to oppose himselfe against all the reso-
 lutions that therein may, haue bin, and are taken. In wit-
 nesse whereof, the said hath signed vnto the
 Clerkes Register; and whereupon we haue deliuered vnto
 him this present writing signed by vs and one of the ordi-
 nary Clerkes of this Bailiwicke, The day and year aboue-
 said.



Letters

in the open Court, according to the forme therein
 printed, and which shall be sent by the said Court, to be
 delivered freely without any fees paying to the Judges and
 make the same declaration, as well by the Judges and
 Clerkes upon paine of imprisonment in Court in the
 said Court of Parliament, the Chamber being assembled;
 at the towne of London the 10th day of June 1601.

Signed, By the Judges,

This day
 I have appeared before
 of the Court
 about making provision of the informed Religion, who
 dwelling in the Parish
 of the
 B

Letters sent by those of the reformed Religion, assembled together in Rochell.

To the Duke de Lesdiguières



May it please your Honour, wee haue refrained from answering vnto the two first letters, which it pleased you to write vnto vs, for an answer vnto our former, staying till the Gentleman that wee sent vnto you, had more particularly reported vnto vs your opinion touching the state of our present affaires, as he hath done, hauing at large declared vnto vs your aduice and good intent to aide our Churches, to recouer that peace, iuretie and contentment which wee seeke for, from the bountie of our King, when you shall haue meanes to speak vnto his Maiestie, to whom (as you haue certified vnto vs) you intend to ride. This your Honours good affection, wherof without doubt we assure our selues, moueth vs vnto those most humble thanks which we are bound to yeeld vnto you, and augmenteth our desire (together with these presents) to satisfie your two first letters, as the necessitie of our entire iustification, which your desire to know, requirerh at our hands, hoping that your Honour hauing reiected all doubts and scruples which seeme to hold you at a stay touching the pursuite of our conuocation and staying in this place, as we may easily do it, you will easily thinke it fit to ioyne your good will with our submissions, for obtaining the frutes and effects of our most humble requests and supplications to his Maiestie; and by that meanes bereaue our enemies of their triumphs which they make against vs, vpon the doubt which you seeme to make of the euidence of our good meanings, by your first letter, which to that effect they haue published. Whereupon we beseech your Honour to be pleased, for the resolving of all these difficulcies, that we may put you in mind, that the resolution that we then made of our separation at Loudun, to reassemble againe vpon default of

performance of such things as were promised vnto vs, was grounded vpon the promise which was given to you and to *Monsieur de Chastillon*, by my Lord the Prince, and the Duke de *Luyne*, in the Kings name, and by you vnto vs; which our Churches hauing faithfully obserued, vpon that condition confirmed their Deputies in all Prouinces, or substituted others to meete here if occasion fell out. It is needlesse to produce other proofes, or to rehearse our registers to put you in minde, that as then those promises were made vnto vs, vpon condition to reassemble together if they were not performed within the time prefixed: seeing that your Honour is the most sufficient witness that wee may or can produce, which acknowledge and once againe confirme the truth thereof by your second letter dated the 22 of February last, where you writ vnto vs in proper termes, that the same that was granted vnto vs then vpon the separation at Loudun (vpon promise to reassemble) hath bin entirely executed, whereof we will hereafter speake; hauing first manifested this permission which you deferre to be made euident, and which we esteeme ought to be thought and iudged available and sufficient without contradiction, and to the contentment of those that are most scrupulous; if we adde thereto, that besides the interuention of my said Lord the Prince, and of my Lord the Duke de *Luyne*, of whom the eminent qualitie in the one, and the great fauour of the other, can permit no shadow of disauouching, our good intents haue bin much more settled vpon the expresse word spoken from the mouth of his sacred Maiestie, whereof you are an vnreproucable witness, when you told vs by your first letter bearing date the first of the said Moneth, in these words, saying that the same which your Honour had promised vnto vs in his Maiesties name, was confirmed at Fontainebleau by his Royall mouth to the Deputies of the assembly at Loudun, at such time as they certified him of the separation. We thinke it had not bin lawfull for vs to desire or to imagine any other permission

missio more available or firmer assurance, then the sacred word of the King. Inke and paper cannot conferre any weight nor authoritie to the Kings words. And certainly we would haue iudged our selues to be vnworthy of the fauour of our King, and iniurious to his authoritie, if we had required that permission vnder a greater securitie then his Maiesties word. VVhereupon we beseech your Honor to pardon vs, if we tell you, that then we asked no note in writing, and that it was not denied vnto vs. To the contrary it is true, that when we were pressed to separate our selues, we were offered a note in writing to reassemble if iustice were not done vnto vs. And many times by diuers of the principal, this speech was confirmed in open Counsell to our Deputies, that they did not doubt but that we would reassemble together. But we that feare nothing more then those paines, and such encounters which our enemies alwayes imagine and deuise to do mischief vnto vs, at that time desired and insisted, to receiue some reall contentment vpon our complaints, thereby to assure the astonishment and the perplexities of our brethren, and to restrain the insolencie of our enemies, by such testimonies of our protection and of the Kings good will towards vs, that we might come thither no more, nor fall againe into such labyrinths. But all our instances could preuaile nothing, and we were constrained to content our selues with those promises; from whence our enemies by their secret reaches knew well how to draw those inconueniences and mischiefes which we foresee and too well apprehend. Seeing then that the assurance and permission of our reassembling was such, what need was there (as your Honour saith) that our generall Deputies should renew their instance to the King, to permit vs to do it? It shalbin a meanes to call in question an assured promise, and thereby to preiudice our selues. For we feare not to tell you that which cannot be concealed from you, that our enemies haue by many experiences made vs feeble, that as often and whensoever those things that are most assured

vnto vs either by Edicts or by other grants from the King, fall in question, they haue that power to cause that to be withdrawne that was granted vnto vs, and to cause vs to lose that right which we had obtained. VVe could shew an Infinite number of complaints vpon this subiect, and how that diuers articles concerning the strengthening of things to vs formerly granted, and afterward infringed, we haue receiued answers directly contrary vnto the precedent grants, and such as wholly annihilated them. Then who doubts not, but that the same power of our enemies, which at this day worketh the deniall of those things that were promised vnto vs, would not also haue caused all the requests of our Deputies to be reiected. Hauing thus iustified vnto your Honour our said permission, and consequently the equitie of our proceeding authorized by the same; it resteth onely plainly to shew you the occasions, condition and necessitie of our reassembling, and to haue recourse vnto our complaints. The circumstances of the time, and of that which hath bin omitted or committed contrary to the promises, shall suffice therein. Your Honor remembreth, and your letter mentioneth the same, that the King promised vs that within fixe moneths from the day of our separation, he would cause Leytoure to be restored, admit the Counsellours of the Religion into the Parliament of Paris, giue a writing touching the guarding of the places of securitie; that the states thereof should be deliuered vnto vs; that our requests should be fauourably answered, and the answers thereunto duly and truly executed. And touching the affaires of Bearn, that within seven moneths the Deputies of the country should be heard touching that which they would shew vnto his Maiestie. Our separation was made vpon the 13 of April the last yeare, the six moneths from the same day fell vpon the 13 of October following: and in all that time nothing of those things that were promised was executed, but onely the deliery of the writing touching the guard of the places, what instance and pursuite soeuer our Deputies gene-
rall

all could make. In the same time the King went to Bearn,
during the delay obtained for our remonstrances, and they
being not vnderstood, nor once hearkned vnto; nor onely
the commission to the contrary hath bin executed, but
which is more, our Churches haue lost all the securitie
and libertie which they had enioyed in that country so
many yeares together, and in an instant followed the be-
ginning of all those dangerous consequences which we
doubted from the beginning of the decree of the contrary
commission. Vpon that time the fixe moneths being past,
this grieffe hapned, and none of the rest redressed; our as-
sembly vpon the 25 of Nouember. And if since that the
towne of Leytoure hath bin remitted into the hands of a
Gentleman of the Religion, could the healing of that old
sore so long time suffered, after the feeling of a much
greater grieffe, be a sufficient meane to stay our humble
complaints, touching the same and all the rest. We were
already assembled, and our most humble complaints pre-
sented vnto his Maiestie, when the two Counsellors were
admitted, but vpon a worse condition then all the former
refusals, which bereaue vs of the libertie which the King
grantedh vnto vs by his Edicts, to enter indifferently in the
office, in such manner, that the same grieffe is so far from
being redressed, that it is rather increased by that meane.
These therefore, and it please your Honor, were the occa-
sions of our reassembling, which yet continueth. The mi-
serable estate of Bearn, the depiall of the state of the places
of securitie in Dauphinois, which is openly maintained,
(contrary to the promise made vnto you, and which you
here confirmed vnto vs by your letters) was neuer gran-
ted vnto vs. To the contrary whereof, your Honor knows,
that particularly from ~~anno~~ 1616. at the conference of
London, it was particularly vnto vs, and since that by the
last promises confirmed vnto your self. As also, besides the
publike testimonies which you giue vs here, you may call
to minde, that you haue confirmed the same to diuers men
in particular, telling them of the absolute necessitie that
we:

we haue to pursue the same. Then followeth the contradiction made against the 27. article of the Edict, touching our admission into offices. The fauourable answers denied to our propositions; and the sending of Committees into the Prouinces neglected. And lastly the troupees and garrisons left in the country of Bearn, Guyenne and Poictou, which giue an alarme and a iust distrust vnto our Churches. These are the principall heads of our complaints; it is not the number, but the weightinesse of them which maketh them important. As also, that those few articles, for the reparation whereof we haue hoped to receiue some assurance of the Kings good will, from the which our enemies by all means seeke to estrange vs, ought not to be made a consequence against vs; but on the contrary, our obedience ought thereby to be more manifest, that wee contented our selues with that remedie, to strengthen our patience, besides all so many other infractions that continually hurt our libertie, which the King hath granted vnto vs. And by the same reason, our cause ought at this day to be more fauoured, and our equitie more manifested, if vpon the not executing of so few articles, contrary to the faithfull promises made vnto vs, (whereby our condition being also much impeached) we haue had our recourse to the fauour of our King, by our most humble declarations, in that state wherein he hath permitted vs to resseable, to present the same vnto him. Whereupon we are not able to expresse the intollerable grieffe that we feele, when in regard of these proceedings which we haue followed by lawfull meanes of the respect and reuerence that is due vnto his Maiestie, we perceiue our selues to be condemned by the subtill practises of our enemies, which slander vs to wrong the Kings authoritie; thereby to kindle his wrath and indignation against vs, seeking to reduce vs to that point, either to incur the effect of his displeasure by open warre, wherewith we are threatened; or for to shun the same we should keepe silent in our iust complaints, and endure all the wrongs and mischies which daily are throwne

vpon

Upon vs. So that from henceforth, men will acknowledge
no other obedience in vs, but that we should with patience
suffer all the mischiefes that they would do vnto vs, with-
out permission to complaine thereof: and our griefes and
preuentions made against the falsities and threatnings of
our enemies, shall be imputed to disobedience, and a capi-
tall crime. VVill not your Honour iudge, that there is a
meane to be vsed in these things? but rather acknowledg-
ing as it seemes vnto you, that the permission which hath
bin giuen vnto vs by his Maiestie to reassemble, and the
importance of the wrongs, either not redressed, but rather
increased, purge our assembly of the blame to be unlaw-
full, or done without authoritie; we hope that you will
thinke it more reasonable to employ that good affection
which it pleaseth you to promise vs, and that authoritie
and credit which the greatnesse and innumerable number
of so commendable seruices haue gotten you with his Ma-
iestie, to make him to vnderstand the sinceritie of our in-
tents, and the necessitie of our iust complaints, rather then
to seeke our separation before some contentment be giuen
vnto our Churches; whose disquietnesse makes vs the
more carefull to persist in procuring their consolation.
VWhich to attaine, we haue sought to enter into those
wayes of respect which we beare vnto our King, that
might cleare vs of that imputation which our enemies
seeke to imprint in him towards vs. To that end hauing
desired our generall Deputies, being by them certified of
the continuall refusall which is made to heare them in our
names, to represent our iust demands in their owne, and
the names of all our Churches. VWherein we perswade
our selues that your Honour approuing our proceeding,
and therein fauouring our said generall Deputies, you will
also iudge that with most iust reason we haue giuen them
to vnderstand vpon the proposition, where by their last
dispatch, we haue bin certified what is done at the Court,
that is, (not to giue vs any contentment, and to binde vs
to a separation, vpon a pardon to be giuen vs) that our

consciencs and the care of the honour and good of our Churches, will neuer permit vs to consent vnto such a thing, that with it would draw not onely a great opprobry vpon our Religion, but also procure the totall ruine of our affaires. VVhereupon we haue bin desirous to informe your Honour of our opinions and resolutions, to the end that it might please you, according to the fauour which you promise vnto vs, rather to signifie vnto his Maiestie, that when his Royall bountie shall thinke it good to grant those fauours which our Churches require of him in all humilitie, (thereby to quench in so many peoples mindes the distrusts which the mischiefs that we endure, and the continuall threatnings of our enemies haue imprinted therein) it will be a meanes more and more to confirme his authoritie, and make it the same which the incomparable wisdom of his father the late King deceased, alwayes maintained, grounding the peace and tranquillitie of his estate vpon the maintenance of his Edicts. Vnder the force whereof, we desire not any further libertie then onely to continue the obedience that wee haue alwayes yeilded without reproch vnto our Kings. That (and it please your Honour) is the good which we beseech you to contribute vnto the present estate of our affaires, as we haue diuers times humbly required the rest of the great personages to do the like, and then specially when for the prevention of the ruine of all our affaires by the diuision which we perceiued men went about to sow betweene them and vs, we besought them, not to hearken vnto a conference propounded vnto them, tending from henceforth to annihilate and make fruitlesse all the pursuizes that wee take in hand, by the order established betweene vs by the Kings permission; and which is more, to lay on them and all of vs the burthen of refusals or of deceits, such as wherewith our euill willers delude the promises which the King hath made vnto vs. Which we esteeming it to be no lesse prejudiciall to themselves then to the generalitie of our Churches, we are perswaded that we are bound in conscience

to beseech you all, not to give way thereunto. Which we
desire your Honour also to accept of, and not to be a
meanes of excluding that good and advantage which your
authoritie and fauour, ioyning with our iust requests, may
procure vnto vs. For we do not desire, neither haue we
any other intent in the discharging of the offices giuen
vnto vs, but as much as possible we may, to strengthen the
band of our vnion betwene all the members of our body,
and specially those of your rank and qualitie, and which is
more considerable. So farre off are we from seeking any
wayes or meanes to overthrow our selves, by making a se-
paration betwene you and vs, that to the contrary, since
we haue bin here, we haue had nothing in more nor greater
recommendation then to re-vnite the particulars, and
the generall, by a coniunction of interest, and one self same
affection towards the aduancement of the glory of God
and the good of our Churches, vnder the obedience of his
Maiestie. VVherein we are bound to render thanks vnto
God, that not onely the townes and commonalties of our
Religion, but also all those that hold a greater ranke a-
mong vs, haue made knowne the most particular assuran-
ces of their constancie in our vnion: as your Honour also,
by the protestation which you haue made vnto vs of the
same, and of the continuance of your seruices towards
the Church of God, in the profession of our Religion, hath
done. VVhereupon we must tell you, that the slanders im-
pudently published by those that hate your vertue, because
of your profession, could neuer shake nor diminish our per-
suasions therein. And in that confidence, and vpon the
singular assurances that *Monsieur de Bonnet* hath giuen vs
of your good affection to procure (by the Kings fauour)
some contentment to our Churches in these occurrents.
We beseech your Honour once againe to contribute your
good will therein, in such manner, that dispersing that im-
putation which our enemies maliciously lay on vs to con-
tradiet the Kings authoritie, our sincere intents being
knowne, our Churches by our sure and honorable returne
vnto

unto them, may upon their most important complaints
 receive that good which they so long time have hoped,
 and promised unto them, being so necessarie for our con-
 servation and tranquillitie. And that to the peace of the
 State being fully confirmed, according to our desires, and
 that of all good French men, we may see the arbitrement
 of Christendome in the hands of our King. And your Ho-
 nour, by his commandement, in many of his best subiects
 by your victorious hands, make the terror of his name
 and of his forces, strike into his enemies hearts, who with
 great desire now more then ever they did, seeke to imbase
 the authoritie and the dignitie of this monarchie, which
 for the good thereof and of the Church is therein refer-
 ued. God increase your yeares, and his graces in you, to
 whom we alwayes remaine your Honours most humble
 and most affectionate seruants. The Deputies of the Re-
 formed Churches in France, and the soueraignie of Bearn
 assembled in Rochell.

Signed,

De la Cressonniers, President.

Rosell,

Lieutenant.

De la Piterney,

Secretarie.

De la Tour,

Secretarie.



Rochell the 18 of March, 1621.



The second Letter written by the Assembly
in Rochell, to the Duke de Desdiguieres, dated
the second of April, 1622.



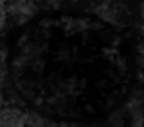
THe Letter which it pleased your Honour to write vnto vs, we haue receiued by *Monsieur de la Roche*, who withall hath particularly aduertised vs of your intent. We perswade our selues that you would not haue sent this message, nor giuen vs that advice, if you had receiued our last Letter, which contained the reasonable grounds of our assembling, together with the iustnesse and necessitie of our subsistence, and thereby you would haue perceiued that we reiect formalities, and by onely cleauing vnto the speciall end of our vocation, which is to redresse the euils that our Churches endure, haue giuen commiission to our generall Deputies in their owne name, and those of our said Churches to pursue the iustnesse of our demands, as you may more at large vnderstand the same from them by word of mouth. As by all these proceedings we iustifie our necessary resolutions vnto your Honour; so it hath bin a most great displeasure vnto vs to vnderstand your contrary feelings thereof, which serue to no other end but to increase our iust distrusts, and to strengthen the euill will of those that are the hinderances of the effects of our lawfull proceedings. For to this separation of our assemblies, of late time, all the practises of our aduersaries specially tend; which ought so much the more to be suspicious to all the members of our Churches, that they would bring vs thereunto by such wayes as reduce our affaires into desolation, and our bodies into opprobrie. For that by abandoning the meanes of our securitie, which

so many yeares wee haue fought with so great care and
paines, we shall cast our Churches into new labyrinths,
whereby they should be reduced into despaire, and would
not omit any manner of remedy to withdraw themselves
from an vniust persecution. We know how much we are
to attribute vnto the advice which commeth from your
Honors great experience; but may it please you to remem-
ber that which hath ensued contrary to your and our in-
tents, of your entermise of London, and into how
many bad termes our light credit hath reduced vs, with so
great apparence to meete with no better in time to come,
if we should commit the like errors. To the end that you
may beare with vs, if the great hurt which that blow gaue
vnto our conseruation, maketh vs incapable of the sepa-
ration which you require of vs, so instantly, with your ad-
vice ioyning the reproches of disobedience, and the threat-
nings of hard vsage; which things we esteeme not strange
in the enemies of our profession, who withdrawing from
vs his Maiesties good inclinations, take pleasure in slan-
ders and violences, and whom we know are sufficiently
animated not to desist from the desolation of the Churches
in Bearn. But when those that are so much bound to the
tranquillitie of the house of God, wherein they had their
being, & ought to leaue an honorable and profitable me-
morie of them to their posteritie, lift vp their armes against
our innocencie. It is an affliction much greater vnto vs
then we speake of. For touching the accusations where-
with we are charged, we expect no greater testimonie of
the perpetuall obedience of vs and our fathers, then that
of your Honors owne knowledge, who haue so often
found, that we were never so instantly accused of disobe-
dience, but onely with an intent to withdraw those
advantages from vs, which reason, equitie, and the promi-
ses of our Kings made indubitable. These deuices being
not vnknowne vnto you, we expect better things from
your Honour, conformable to the common profession
which

bound thereunto by expresse words, which to vs ought
to be a publicke faith, and consequently inviolable, but
by the serious remembrance of the ranke and authoritie
whereunto God hath raised you, by the singular blessing
which he hath bestowed vpon you, causing it to increas
together with your yeares, in diuers manner, by the know-
ledge of his truth, which is none of the least honours you
shall carrie with you from hence, by the holy communion
that you haue so long time had with the Church of God:
by this meanes you shall haue this testimonie in your con-
science, to haue employed Gods talents to the profit of
his Church: whereupon we tell your Honor, that it much
importeth the honour of your profession, to consider how
you put your hand to these affaires. Which as this present
are exposed to the open view of all Christendome, as a fit
meanes which God putteth into your hands, to aduance
his glorie, and in good time to bring our Churches into
an assured estate. If it will please you to ioyne your cre-
dit and fauour to the iust proceedings of our general De-
puties, which will leaue you an honorable mark, and make
you liue alwayes in the memorie of men. And although
some considerations of the world may moue you
to be indifferent touching our ruine, (which we ex-
pect not from you) neuerthelesse we will not distrust in
Gods protection, hoping that he will touch the heart of
our King, by the admirable meanes of his prouidence, in
his time to effect a full contentment to his people; whom
we beseech to make you fully to vnderstand the malice of
our enemies, the importance of our mischiefes, the sincer-
itie of our proceedings, and the equitie of our demands
touching the oppression of the afflicted; that being moved
with Christian compassion, you may make that power
and credit which he hath given you available, in your days
to see the prosperitie of the Church and the state. These
are the humble requests which we haue alreadie made vn-
to

and which now we re-learn,
that you be assured, that both ge-
nerally and particularly your Honors

Right honorable and most affectionate servants,
the Deputies of the reformed Churches of
France, and the four hundred of Bern, of
Switzerland Rebels.



De la Crisfondat,	President,
Roff,	Lieutenant.
De la Pitance,	Secretarie.
De la Tour,	Secretarie.

At the City of April, 1681.

